

REMARKS

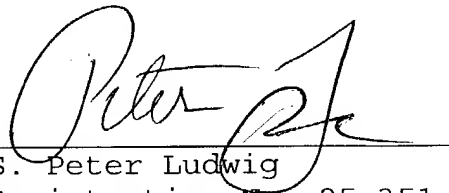
This application includes claims 1-22. Claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 18, 20 and 21 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10 17, 18 20 and 21 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were deemed to recite patentable subject matter. Applicant has therefore amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 6, and has amended claim 12 to incorporate the limitations of claims 16 and 17. Claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 have therefore been canceled, and claims 7 and 18 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively. (Claim 22 has also been amended to correct a typographical error, so that the claim now depends from claim 12, rather than claim 11 as previously.) Claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 have been amended to stand as independent claims, incorporating the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims from which they formerly depended. Thus, these claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11-13, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Chang (US 6,553,003), while claims 3, 5, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Chang in view of Locklear (US 5,999,565) or Heinzmann (US 5,173,898). As noted above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12 to distinguish the present invention over the cited art by incorporating the limitations of dependent claims that were found to recite patentable subject matter. Therefore, claims 1 and 12, as amended, are believed to be patentable. Claims 5 and 16 have been canceled, as noted above. In view of the patentability of independent claims 1 and 12, dependent claims 2-4, 7, 8, 11, 13-15, 18, 19 and 22, which depend therefrom, are believed to be patentable, as well.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks stated above to be fully responsive to 'all' of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, all the claims in the present patent application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to this effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Ludwig", written over a horizontal line.

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